

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

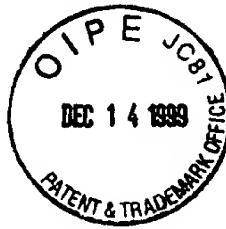
In re Patent Application of

FEI

Serial No. **09/401,730**

Filed: **September 23, 1999**

For: **DEVICE FOR SECURING AT LEAST ONE
OPTICAL FIBRE TO AN OPTICAL
APPARATUS**



Atty. Ref.: 3572-7

Group:

Examiner:

* * * * *

December 14, 1999

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application and claims as follows prior to initial consideration of the claims in this application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4, 11 and 17 as follows:

Claim 4, lines 1 and 2, delete "any one of the preceding claims 1 to 3" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 11, line 1, delete "claims 9 and 10" and insert --claim 9--.

Claim 17, lines 1 and 2, delete "any one of the preceding claims 14 to 16" and insert --claim 14--.